

# ANNUAL TOWN MEETING – FY2018

## Town of Rowe

### COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

**Monday May 8, 2017**

Town Clerk: Jennifer A. Morse  
Moderator: Robert Clancy  
Constable: Robert Dykeman  
Town Counsel: Donna MacNicol  
Tellers: Sandra Daviau, Rebecca Richardson, Joanne Semanie, Katherine Sprague

The Annual Town Meeting was held on Monday May 8, 2017 at the Rowe Elementary School, 86 Pond Road. The Annual Town meeting was called to order at 7 p.m. by Moderator Clancy. There was approximately sixty-six (66) registered voters and thirteen (13) audience members present at the beginning of the meeting.

Moderator Clancy asked for a moment of silence for Rowe Residents who have passed in 2016/2017; Dorothy Kalasus, Richard Alix, Barbara Grogan, Ian Vernes, Lillian Norma Brown.

Moderator Clancy swore the following registered voters in as tellers for the meeting; Sandy Daviau, Becky Richardson, Joanne Semanie and Katherine Sprague.

Moderator Clancy turned to the Board of Selectmen for comments. Chair Marilyn Wilson stated that the budget was difficult with more than a \$200,000 deficit, cut were made and welcomed resident participation in the budget process at meetings.

Moderator Clancy turned to the Board of Assessors for an estimated tax rate impact if all articles passed at the meeting. Board of Assessors member Ellen Miller shared that the estimated tax rate will be \$6.36 Residential and \$14.05 for Commercial, Industrial and Personal Property.

After the reading of the Annual Town Meeting Warrant Greeting Moderator Clancy opened the meeting for articles.

***A motion was made and seconded to take Article 31 out of order.*** Motion Passed by Show of Hands

**ARTICLE 31:** : A motion was made and seconded vote to accept the addition of the Town of Rowe as a 7-12 member of the District effective July 1, 2018 by making the following amendments to the Mohawk Trail Regional Agreement as printed. Changing Section B, Second Paragraph At the 2018 annual town election...instead of 2017 annual town election.

(note: the amendments below are to be effective July 1, 2018):

Strike the following language in the Preamble:

The agreement entered into pursuant to Chapter 71 of the General Laws, as amended, and as supplemented by Chapter 371 of the Acts of 1993, among the Towns of Ashfield, Buckland, Charlemont, Colrain, Hawley, Heath, Plainfield, and Shelburne, hereinafter sometimes referred to as member towns, is hereby further amended in its entirety to read as hereinafter set forth.

And replace said language with the following:

The Agreement entered into pursuant to Chapter 71 of the General Laws, as amended, and as supplemented by Chapter 371 of the Acts of 1993, among the Towns of Ashfield, Buckland, Charlemont, Colrain, Hawley, Heath, Plainfield, Shelburne, and Rowe (hereinafter sometimes referred to as member towns, is hereby further amended in its entirety to read as hereinafter set forth.

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Strike the following language in Section I(A):

The powers and duties of the regional school district shall be vested in and exercised by a regional district school committee, hereafter sometimes referred to as the Committee. The Committee shall consist of sixteen (16) elected members, two (2) from each town. A member appointed by the Rowe School Committee would serve as a non-voting member of the Committee as described in Section IX (G) of this Agreement. Members shall serve until their respective successor members are elected and qualified.

And replace said language with the following:

The powers and duties of the regional school district shall be vested in and exercised by a regional district school committee, hereafter sometimes referred to as the Committee. The Committee shall consist of eighteen (18) elected members, two (2) from each town. Members shall serve until their respective successor members are elected and qualified.

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Strike the following language in Section I(B):

At the annual town elections in 1994, in addition to any term of office of an elected member whose term is expired, the following shall also be elected: the Town of Hawley shall elect one member for a three-year term, and one member for two-year term; the Town of Heath shall elect one member for a three-year term and one member for a one-year term; the Town of Plainfield shall elect one member for a two-year term and one member for a one-year term.

2004 Election Year – Terms of all currently elected committee members with the exception of Heath, Hawley and Plainfield, will expire as of the annual town elections in 2004. At the 2004 annual town elections two school committee members will be elected from the Towns of Ashfield, Buckland, Charlemont, Colrain, and Shelburne. The school committee member who receives the largest number of votes from his/her town will serve a term of three years. The school committee member who receives the second largest number of votes will serve a term of two years. Thereafter, in every year in which the term of office of an elected member expires, each member town involved shall, at its annual town election, select one member to serve on the Committee for a term of three years.

And replace said language with the following: In every year in which the term of office of an elected member expires, each member town involved shall, at its annual town election, select one member to serve on the Committee for a term of three years.

At the ~~2017~~ 2018 annual town elections in the Town of Rowe, two school committee members will be elected. The school committee member who receives the largest number of votes will serve a term of three years, and the school committee member who receives the second largest number of votes will serve a term of two years. Upon the expiration of the initial term of office, each member shall serve on the Committee for a term of three years as stated above.

Each elected member commencing with the organization of the Committee following the 2004 town elections, shall have a weighted vote to be determined by the member town's population as it relates to the total population of all member towns divided by the number of representatives to the Committee from said member town. Each weighted vote shall be determined to the nearest one-tenth and be adjusted every ten (10) years using the population figures as reported in the most recent federal decennial census.

~~Strike the following language in Section I(F):~~

The District shall have one Committee composed of representatives from each member town as set forth above. Members of the Committee from the Towns of Hawley and Charlemont will not vote on any matters that the Committee determines to concern the operation of grades kindergarten through six, exclusively.

And replace said language with the following:

The District shall have one Committee composed of representatives from each member town as set forth above. Members of the Committee from the Towns of Hawley, Charlemont, and Rowe will not vote on any matters that the Committee determines to concern the operation of grades kindergarten through six, exclusively.

~~Strike the following language in Section I(G):~~

The initial weighted votes of the Committee members established in 1994 from each member town are as follows:

Member Towns	Number of Members	Weighted Vote of each Member
Ashfield	3	5.6%
Buckland	3	6.3%
Charlemont	3	4.1%
Colrain	3	5.7%
Hawley	2	1.5%
Heath	2	3.5%
Plainfield	2	2.8%
Shelburne	3	6.5%

The weighted votes of the Committee have been adjusted using the population figures as reported in the most recent federal decennial census and are as follows:

Member Towns	Number of Members	Weighted vote of each Member
Ashfield	3	5.7%
Buckland	3	6.3%
Charlemont	3	4.3%
Colrain	3	5.7%
Hawley	2	1.5%
Heath	2	3.5%
Plainfield	2	2.5%
Shelburne	3	6.3%

The above weighted votes of the Committee members shall remain in effect until the new school committee of sixteen (16) members is reconstituted after the 2004 town election for school committee members consistent with Section I, Paragraphs A and B of the District Agreement. After the reconstitution of the committee in 2004 the weighted votes of the Committee members from each town shall be as follows:

Member Towns	Number of Members	Weighted vote of each Member
Ashfield	2	8.5%
Buckland	2	9.5%
Charlemont	2	6.5%
Colrain	2	8.5%
Hawley	2	1.5%
Heath	2	3.5%
Plainfield	2	2.5%
Shelburne	2	9.5%

And replace said language with the following:

The weighted votes of the Committee members from each town shall be as follows:

Member Towns	Number of Members	Weighted vote of each Member
Ashfield	2	8.5%
Buckland	2	9.4%
Charlemont	2	6.2%
Colrain	2	8.2%
Hawley	2	1.7%
Heath	2	3.5%
Plainfield	2	3.2%
Shelburne	2	9.3%

The above weighted votes of the Committee members shall remain in effect until the new school committee of eighteen (18) members is reconstituted after the Town of Rowe becomes a 7-12 member of the District. After the reconstitution of the Committee, the weighted votes of the Committee members from each town shall be as follows until the next federal decennial census as provided above.

Member Towns	Number of Members	Weighted vote of each Member
Ashfield	2	8.2%
Buckland	2	9.0%
Charlemont	2	6.0%
Colrain	2	7.9%
Hawley	2	1.6%
Heath	2	3.3%
Plainfield	2	3.1%
Rowe	2	1.9%
Shelburne	2	9.0%

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Strike the following language in Section III(A):

Residents of the member towns and all residents of the Town of Rowe in grades seven through twelve will be eligible to attend school at the Mohawk Trail Regional High School, located on Route 112 in Buckland, Massachusetts.

And replace said language with the following:

Residents of the member towns will be eligible to attend school at the Mohawk Trail Regional High School, located on Route 112 in Buckland, Massachusetts.

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Strike the following language in Section III(F):

The Committee shall accept for enrollment in the District High School, pupils from the Town of Rowe on a tuition basis and upon such terms as are set forth in Section IX of this Agreement. The Committee may accept for enrollment in the regional district schools pupils from towns other than the member towns and the Town of Rowe on a tuition basis and upon such terms as it may determine. In either case, income received by the District from tuition pupils shall be deducted from the total operating costs in the next annual budget to be prepared after the receipt thereof, prior to apportionment under Section IV of this Agreement to the member towns.

And replace said language with the following:

The Committee may accept for enrollment in the regional district schools pupils from towns on a tuition basis and upon such terms as it may determine. In either case, income received by the District from tuition pupils shall be deducted from the total operating costs in the next annual budget to be prepared after the receipt thereof, prior to apportionment under Section IV of this Agreement to the member towns.

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Strike the following language in Section IV(H):

Third: The Committee shall apportion costs of grades seven through twelve, inclusive, to the Towns of Hawley and Charlemont in direct proportion to each town’s five-year average share of student enrollment in grades seven through twelve, inclusive.

Fourth: The total budget, less the shares allocated to the Towns of Hawley and Charlemont, shall be apportioned among the district’s six remaining member towns on the basis of each member town’s five-year average student enrollment share. For purposes of this calculation, average enrollment share, for each of the K-12 Member Towns shall be based on its five year average proportionate share of total student enrollment in the district schools.

And replace said language with the following:

Third: The Committee shall apportion costs of grades seven through twelve, inclusive, to the Towns of Hawley, Charlemont, and Rowe in direct proportion to each town’s five-year average share of student enrollment in grades seven through twelve, inclusive.

Fourth: The total budget, less the shares allocated to the Towns of Hawley, Charlemont, and Rowe shall be apportioned among the district’s six remaining member towns on the basis of each member town’s five-year average student enrollment share. For purposes of this calculation, average enrollment share, for each of the K-12 Member Towns shall be based on its five year average proportionate share of total student enrollment in the district schools (note: pre-K enrollment will be included in the calculation beginning in FY18 and will include the data from October 1, 2015 and October 1, 2016).

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Strike the following language in Section VI(C):

For purposes of voting on the annual budget by the member towns, the approval of the District’s annual budget by the town meetings of each K-12 Member Town shall constitute two “units” towards approval or disapproval of the annual district budget, while Hawley and Charlemont shall have one “unit” each, with a total of ten units needed to approve the annual budget.

And replace said language with the following:

**(D) Vote on the Annual Budget**

For purposes of voting on the annual budget by the member towns, the approval of the District’s annual budget by the town meetings of each K-12 Member Town shall constitute two “units” towards approval or disapproval of the annual district budget, while 7-12 member towns shall have one “unit” each, with a total of ten units needed to approve the annual budget.

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Strike the entirety of Section IX as follows, and renumber the remaining Sections:

**SECTION IX  
EDUCATION OF PUPILS FROM THE TOWN OF ROWE**

**(A) Special Education Pupils from the Town of Rowe**

The Committee shall provide for the education of all pupils from the Town of Rowe in grades seven through twelve who are entitled to attend the District High School irrespective of the specific and particular educational needs of any pupil from said Town of Rowe, and irrespective of whether such education for any pupil from said Town of Rowe is provided at the District High School or at any other school as may be approved by said Committee.

**(B) Transportation of Pupils from the Town of Rowe**

The Committee shall provide for the transportation of pupils from the Town of Rowe who are entitled to attend the District High School, to and from said District High School to the extent that such transportation is provided for pupils from member towns who are entitled to attend said District High School. The Committee shall provide for the transportation of pupils from the Town of Rowe who are entitled to attend the District High School, to and from any other school as may be approved by said Committee to the extent that such transportation is provided for pupils from member towns who are entitled to attend said District High School, to and from any other school as may be approved by said Committee.

The Town of Rowe shall bear the cost of transportation for elementary pupils attending the Rowe elementary school.

**(C) Tuition Basis for Pupils Grades 7-12 from the Town of Rowe**

The cost of tuition to the District High School for each pupil in grades seven through twelve who attends the District High School or any other school as may be approved by the Committee, and who resides in the Town of Rowe shall be paid by said Town of Rowe to the District during the fiscal year when each such pupil is actually in attendance. The basis of the cost of tuition to the District High School or any other school as may be approved by said Committee for each fiscal year shall be established as follows: The total Maintenance and Operating Budget for said District High School as defined in Subsection VI(D) of this Agreement, for that fiscal year, reduced by the anticipated amounts of receipts from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to be used by the Committee to defray such budgeted maintenance and operating charges for that fiscal year, and further reduced by the anticipated amounts of surplus revenue from the District treasury to be used by the Committee to defray such budgeted maintenance and operating charges for that fiscal year, and further reduced by the amounts received from towns paying tuition to the district, consistent with the terms of Subsection III(F) of this Agreement; the balance (viz. the net operating and maintenance budget for said fiscal year) to be divided by the total enrollment of pupils in the District High School from member towns as of October 1 of the previous fiscal year and the resulting balance further divided by one and one-tenth (1.1); the final balance to equal the cost of tuition for one pupil for one complete school year.

**(D) Reduction of the Cost of Tuition for Pupils Resident in the Town of Rowe**

In the event the Committee reduces the net operating and maintenance costs assessed to the member towns for any fiscal year, by reduction of the Operating and Maintenance Budget for said fiscal year or by the application of additional amounts of revenue, irrespective of the source thereof, to reduce the net operating and maintenance costs assessed to said member towns for that fiscal year, the cost of tuition to the Town of Rowe for the education of its pupils during said fiscal year shall be likewise reduced in accordance with the provisions of Subsection IX(D).

**(E) Schedule of Payment of Tuition Costs by the Town of Rowe**

The Town of Rowe shall pay for the tuition of its pupils to the District High School, or any other school as may be approved by the Committee, such amounts as are in accordance with the provisions of Subsection IX (D), and shall make such payments twice each fiscal year at the following time: 1) not later than January 31 of each fiscal year; 2) not later than June 30 of each fiscal year.

**(F) Payment of Capital Costs by the Town of Rowe**

The Town of Rowe shall have the opportunity to pay a portion of capital costs as defined in Subsection IV (B) for capital projects at District High School. The Committee shall negotiate the rate of a voluntary contribution with the Rowe School Committee at the time of each capital project.

**(G) Representation on the Committee**

The School Committee of the Town of Rowe may appoint one of its members to represent the Town of Rowe at meetings of the Committee. The Committee shall allow such representative all powers of discussion, debate and deliberation including, but not limited to, participation in such meetings of the Committee while in executive session, but such representative shall not have the power to vote on any matter which comes before the Committee.

**(H) Administrative Support Services for Rowe Pupils Grade K-6**

The Town of Rowe shall have the opportunity to utilize the services of the Superintendent of Schools and central administration, and Director of Pupil Services who also directs special education, for administration of the Rowe Elementary School and bear the costs thereof.

**(I) Distribution of Assets in the Event of Dissolution of the District**

In the event of the dissolution of the District, its assets shall be distributed to the member towns and the Town of Rowe on the basis of each town's respective aggregate payment of capital cost to the District.

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Add the following to Section XIV as a new subsection (C):

**(C) Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education**

Any amendment to the Agreement must be approved by the Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education.  
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Add the following to Section XV:

Pursuant to 603 CMR 41.03(2), all approvals, including but not limited to approval by the Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education, must be in place prior to December 31 for the agreement to be effective on the following July 1.  
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Add the following to the last paragraph of Section XVI(A):

Pursuant to 603 CMR 41.03(2), all approvals, including but not limited to approval by the Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education, must be in place prior to December 31 for the agreement to be effective on the following July 1.  
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**Article 31 - Recommended by Rowe School Committee**

A request was made from the floor for a paper ballot vote on Article 31. Request for paper ballot vote was granted with more than ten percent of the voters by show of hands. (Thirteen (13) vote)

Article 31 Defeated by Paper Ballot  
24 – Yes  
41 -No

A motion was made and seconded to take Article 21 out of order. Motion passed by Show of Hands.

**ARTICLE 21:** A motion was made and seconded to TABLE Article 21 to **RAISE and APPROPRIATE** the following sums for **Pensions and Insurance** for the 2018 fiscal year, or take any action in relation thereto:

Franklin County Retirement Assessment	\$ 132,439.00
Unemployment Insurance	1,000.00
Group Health/Dental/Life Insurance	478,616.00
FICA/Medicare Tax – Town Share	55,000.00
<b>TOTAL PENSION &amp; INSURANCE FROM TAXATION</b>	<b>\$ 667,055.00</b>

Board of Selectmen Chair stated that there were legal problems with Article 21 that need to be resolved before moving forward. It was verified that the number presented in the Group Health/Dental/Life Insurance line reflected the 75% town share.

Motion to TABLE Article 21 was defeated by a Show of Hands  
Teller Count  
Yes – 22  
No - 32

A motion was made and seconded to amend Article 21 to **RAISE and APPROPRIATE** the following sums for **Pensions and Insurance** for the 2018 fiscal year.

Franklin County Retirement Assessment	\$ 132,439.00
Unemployment Insurance	1,000.00
Group Health/Dental/Life Insurance	<del>478,616.00</del> <b>542,432.00</b>
FICA/Medicare Tax – Town Share	55,000.00
<b>TOTAL PENSION &amp; INSURANCE FROM TAXATION</b>	<b><del>\$ 667,055.00</del> 730,871.00</b>

A request was made from the floor to allow audience member Barbara Griffin (School Employee) to speak to the article. Request to speak was granted by Show of Hands.

Ms. Griffin read and submitted the following petition. “We, the undersigned employees of Rowe Elementary School, have concerns about how the process happened for the proposed increase in insurance percentages that is on the town warrant. We do not know what percentage of the town’s insurance applies to town residents but certainly a significant number of town employees do not reside in Rowe. To have not been consulted nor informed of this change in insurance percentage increase feels disrespectful. It is most certainly demoralizing to us. Being asked to attend an informative meeting one week before town meeting and when the article is already on the warrant for the town is not informative. It feels like masquerading the supposed “endorsement” of the decision the Select Board has already made. It has been eluded that all other town employees that have been spoken to are accepting of this change. Since most people I know haven’t been spoken to we do not think this can be considered as any kind of a mandate. And to the ones that were spoken to- did they, in fact, tell you that they were accepting of this change or was this presented to them as a done deal and that they had no choice of this change or was this presented to them as a done deal and that they had no choice in the matter? Quite a different scenario. Meeting with people and explaining a situation does not indicate agreement. Certainly the manner in which many of us found out about this does not reflect transparency in politics, a sentiment that many of us feel is critical in a democracy.

It feels like the Town is trying to balance the budget on the backs of a significant number of town employees and retirees who in fact have no vote at all because they do not reside in town. Clearly our input was not sought. It does not seem to us that comprehensive impact study was actually done with would spell out the impact on us. The employees of this town, current and former, provide and have provided high quality service to this town- many going above and beyond in the work that they do for this community. We have pride in Rowe. We are Public Servants. We believe we have served and continue to service this town well.

We, professional and support staff at Rowe Elementary School, also have made do with meager raises and do not feel we have been out of line in our financial request. Our raises have been out of line in our financial requests. Our raises

have been less than 2% for the past few years (Fiscal Year 2015- 1.5%, Fiscal Year 2016 – 1.75%, Fiscal Year 2017 – 2%). Couple that with the fact that our insurance costs have gone up which for many of us has resulting in negating our wage increases. Many of us are at the top step which means that this is all we get. In exchange for those of us at the top step you get experienced and dedicated employees. We have also agreed to cutback in sick leave buy back. Our costs in the rest of our life, like all of you are going up also, so overall we are not only keeping up we are losing ground.

Our support staff are even more adversely affected. The majority worked at the school for over 5 years yet barely make above Massachusetts minimum wage. Your proposals impact them even more disproportionately, if you have examined the attached cost handouts you can see for yourself the damage that is being inflicted. We can’t even imagine the financial impact on retirees.

For those of us who live in surrounding towns our tax rates are generally 2-3 times as high as those in Rowe. Our towns are face serious infrastructure, broadband, and cell phone issues. Many of our towns have applied for and have received grants to assist with infrastructure remediation. I would encourage Rowe to do the same.

We the undersigned are opposed to the proposed increase in raising the percentage of insurance costs borne by town employees, both current and former.

Barbara Griffin, Robert Baker, Traci Barnes, Carol Lively, Dwight Beebe, Claudine Poplawski, Kara Kitchen, Janice Lapointe, Patricia Tierney, Laurie Pike, Tim Schnamel, Kerri McLatchy, Wendy Norcross, Kimberly Celli, Molly Lane, Carrie Burnett, Melanie Gokey.

**The motion to amend Article 21  
Passed By Show Of Hands  
Not Unanimous**

**Article 21 as Amended Passed By Show of Hands  
Not Unanimous**

**ARTICLE 1:** A motion was made and seconded to act on reports of the Town Officers and Committees.

A voter questioned why the Finance Committee made no recommendations on the Annual Town Meeting warrant. Finance Committee Chair Raymond Wilson stated that they had met but after the warrant had been printed.

Mr. Russ Jolly of the Broadband Committee and Alternated to the Wire West Committee shared the Good News that Fiber was moving forward. Mr. Jolly stated that the Town would be receiving funds shortly and a contractor will be hired to begin work with the hopes of having the project complete by summer 2018. This statement was greeted by a round of applause.

**Article 1 Passed By Show of hands  
Not Unanimous**

**ARTICLE 2:** A motion was made and seconded to authorize the Select Board to choose all necessary officers not elected by ballot for the ensuing year.

**Article 2 Passed By Show of Hands  
Not Unanimous**

**ARTICLE 3:** A motion was made and seconded to **RAISE** and **APPROPRIATE** the following sums for the conduct of **General Government**, including the charges and expenses of the various town offices, and compensation for elected and appointed officials for the 2018 fiscal year.

**Administration**

General Administration	\$ 120,450.00
Municipal Audit	8,000.00
Executive Secretary	45,946.00
Administrative Assistant	6,947.00
Town Hall Custodian Wages	13,262.00
Moderator Stipend	439.00
Select Board Stipends	5,928.00
Legal	6,000.00

Tax Collector Stipend	7,782.00
Tax Collector Operations	7,290.00
Treasurer Stipends and Wages	20,722.00
Town Clerk Stipend	13,232.00
Town Clerk Expenses	5,350.00
Conservation Commission	1,000.00
Council on Aging	3,000.00
Energy Committee	500.00
Veteran’s Services	2,700.00
FRCOG Services	24,204.00
Town Accountant	16,047.00
<u>Town Accounting Expenses</u>	<u>2,115.00</u>
Subtotal General Government	\$ 310,914.00
<b>Assessor’s Office</b>	
Assessors’ Stipends and Wages	15,354.00
<u>Assessors’ Operations</u>	<u>8,200.00</u>
Subtotal Assessors	\$ 23,554.00
<b>Planning Board</b>	
Planning Board	1,000.00
Planning Board Consulting <u>and Legal</u> Expenses	5,000.00
<u>Planning Board Goal Post</u>	<u>12,000.00</u>
Subtotal Planning Board	\$ 18,000.00
 <b>TOTAL GENERAL GOVERNMENT FROM TAXATION</b>	
<b>\$ 352,468.00</b>	

A motion wad made and seconded to amend Article 3 changing Planning Board Consulting and Expenses to read Planning Board Consulting and Legal Expenses.

**Motion to amend Article 3**  
**Passed Unanimously By Show Of Hands**

**Article 3 as Amended Passed Unanimously by Show of Hands**

**ARTICLE 4:** A motion was made and seconded to **RAISE and APPROPRIATE** the sum of **\$4,500.00** for the **Assessors’ FY18 ~~Quinquennial~~ Triennial Revaluation Fund**.

**Article 4 Passed Unanimously by Show of Hands**

**ARTICLE 5:** A motion was made and seconded to **RAISE and APPROPRIATE** the sum of **\$20,000.00** to be used as a **Reserve Fund** pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 40, Section 6 for the extraordinary or unforeseen expenditures for the 2018 fiscal year.

**Article 5 Passed Unanimously By Show of Hands**

**ARTICLE 6:** A motion was made and seconded to **RAISE and APPROPRIATE** the following sums for the operation and maintenance of **Public Works and Facilities** for the 2018 fiscal year.

<b>Highway Department</b>	
DPW Salary and Wages	\$ 289,275.00
DPW Operations	201,609.00
<u>Winter Roads</u>	<u>68,612.00</u>
Subtotal Highway Department	\$ 559,496.00
<b>Other Public Works &amp; Facilities</b>	
Street Lighting	\$ 4,000.00
<u>Municipal Light Plant</u>	<u>1,000.00</u>
Subtotal Other Public Works & Facilities	5,000.00
 <b>Cemetery</b>	 \$ 15,000.00
 <b>TOTAL PUBLIC WORKS &amp; FACILITIES FROM TAXATION</b>	
 <b>\$ 579,496.00</b>	

**Article 6 Passed Unanimously By Show of Hands**

**ARTICLE 7:** A motion was made and seconded to **Appropriate** from available funds the sum of **\$143,227.00** for the maintenance, repair, improvement and construction of town highways, or any other purpose allowed under Chapter 90, which amounts shall be reimbursed by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts through funds made available by Chapter 90.

**Article 7 Passed Unanimously By Show of Hands**

**ARTICLE 8:** A motion was made and seconded to **RAISE and APPROPRIATE** the following sums for **Public Safety** for the 2018 fiscal year.

<b>Police Department</b>	
Police Salaries	\$ 51,344.00
<u>Police Operations</u>	<u>8,850.00</u>
Subtotal Police Department	\$ 60,194.00
<b>Fire Department</b>	
Fire Department Stipends	\$ 32,150.00
<u>Fire Department General Operations</u>	<u>30,917.00</u>
Subtotal Fire Department	\$63,067.00
<b>Emergency Management</b>	
Emergency Management Director	\$ 3,864.00
<u>Emergency Management Operations</u>	<u>1,000.00</u>
Subtotal Emergency Management	\$4,864.00
<b>Emergency Medical Services</b>	
EMS Coordinator Stipend	\$ 2,221.00
<u>EMS Operations</u>	<u>1,500.00</u>
Subtotal Emergency Medical Service	\$ 3721.00
<b>Animal Control and Inspection</b>	
Animal Control Stipends	\$1,657.00
<u>Regional Dog Kennel</u>	<u>350.00</u>
Subtotal Animal Control	\$ 2,007.00
<b>TOTAL PUBLIC SAFETY FROM TAXATION</b>	<b>\$ 133,853.00</b>

**Article 8 Passed Unanimously By Show of Hands**

**ARTICLE 9:** A motion was made and seconded to **RAISE and APPROPRIATE** the following sums for **Public Health and Sanitation** for the 2018 fiscal year.

Health Department Stipends and Wages	\$ 74,804.00
Board of Health Operations	\$ 59,884.00
<b>TOTAL PUBLIC HEALTH AND SANITATION FROM TAXATION</b>	<b>\$ 134,688.00</b>

**Article 9 Passed Unanimously By Show of Hands**

**ARTICLE 10:** A motion was made and seconded to authorize the Board of Health, pursuant to MGL Chapter 44, Section 53E1/2, to use a revolving fund with a limit of \$1,000.00 for fiscal year 2018 to accept receipts related to the Town’s **Emergency Dispensing Site**, for the operation of the Town’s Emergency Dispensing Site. in which any remaining funds may be rolled over into a similar revolving fund for fiscal year 2019, or take any action in relation thereto.

**Article 10 Passed Unanimously By Show of Hands**

**ARTICLE 11:** A motion was made and seconded to authorize the Board of Health, pursuant to MGL Chapter 44, Section 53E½, to use a **revolving fund with a limit of \$5,000.00** for fiscal year 2018 to accept receipts **related to the Town’s**



**recycling program and expenditures** for the operation of the Town’s solid waste and recycling programs, membership in and services in the Franklin County Solid Waste Management District, and the purchase of recycled content or environmentally preferable products, to be under the authority of the Board of Health, in which any remaining funds may be rolled over into a similar revolving fund for fiscal year 2019.

**Article 11 Passed Unanimously By Show Of Hands**

**ARTICLE 12:** A motion was made and seconded to authorize the Board of Health, pursuant to MGL Chapter 44, Section 53E½, to use a **revolving fund with a limit of \$6,000.00** for the 2018 fiscal year to accept receipts from the Insurance Billing for the purpose of **providing vaccine services**, in which any remaining funds may be rolled over into a similar revolving fund for fiscal year 2019.

**Article 12 Passed Unanimously By Show Of Hands**

**ARTICLE 13:** A motion was made and seconded to amend the general by-laws of the Town of Rowe by adding a new section to establish and authorize revolving funds for use by certain town departments, boards, committees, agencies or officers under Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44, § 53E1/2 as printed.

Majority vote to adopt or amend the general by-laws.

ARTICLE VIII (of the general By-Laws)

DEPARTMENTAL REVOLVING FUNDS

1. Purpose. This by-law establishes and authorizes revolving funds for use by town departments, boards, committees, agencies or officers in connection with the operation of programs or activities that generate fees, charges or other receipts to support all or some of the expenses of those programs or activities. These revolving funds are established under and governed by General Laws Chapter 44 § 53E1/2.
2. Expenditure Limitations. An authorized department or agency head, board, committee or officer may incur liabilities against and spend monies from a revolving fund established and authorized by this by-law without appropriation subject to the following limitations:

A. Fringe benefits of full-time employees whose salaries or wages are paid from the fund shall also be paid from the fund (except for those employed as school bus drivers.)

B. No liability shall be incurred in excess of the available balance of the fund.

C. The total amount spent during a fiscal year shall not exceed the amount authorized by this bylaw or by town meeting on or before July 1 of that fiscal year, or any increased amount of that authorization that is later approved during that fiscal year by the selectboard and finance committee.
3. Interest. Interest earned on monies credited to a revolving fund established by this by-law shall be credited to the general fund.
4. Procedures and reports. Except as provided in General Laws Chapter 44 §53E1/2 and this by-law, the laws, by-laws, rules, regulations, policies or procedures that govern the receipt and custody of town monies and the expenditure and payment of town funds shall apply to the use of a revolving fund established and authorized by this by-law. The town accountant shall include a statement on the collections credited to each fund, the encumbrances and expenditures charged to the fund and the balance available for expenditure in the regular report the town accountant provides the department, board, committee, agency or officer on appropriations made for its use.
5. Authorized Revolving Funds. The Table establishes:

A. Each revolving fund authorized for use by a town department, board, committee, agency or officer.

B. The department or agency head, board, committee or officer authorized to spend from each fund.

C. The fees, charges and other monies charged and received by the department, board, committee, agency or officer in connection with the program or activity for which the fund is established that shall be credited to each fund by the Town Accountant.

D. The expenses of the program or activity for which each fund may be used.

E. Any restrictions or conditions on expenditures from each fund.

F. Any reporting or other requirements that apply to each fund, and

G. The fiscal years each fund shall operate under this by-law.

Revolving Fund	Entity Authorized	Fees, Charges, or Receipts	Program or Activity Expenses Payable from Fund	Restrictions or Conditions on	Other Require-	Fiscal Years
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	to Spend from Fund	Credited to Fund		Expenses Payable from Fund	ments/ Reports	
Emergency Dispensing Site	Board of Health	Receipts Related to the Emergency Dispensing Site Operations	Dispensing medicines or medical supplies during an emergency	Limit of \$1,000.00		Fiscal Year 2019 and Subsequent Years
Recycling Program	Board of Health	Receipts Related to the Recycling Program	Operation of solid waste and recycling programs, membership in and services of the Franklin County Solid Waste Management District, and the purchase of recycled content or environmentally preferable products	Limit of \$5,000.00		Fiscal Year 2019 and Subsequent Years
Vaccine Services	Board of Health	Receipts from Insurance Billing	Vaccine Services	Limit of \$6,000.00		Fiscal Year 2019 and Subsequent Years
School Programs	School Committee	Fees for School Programs	Offset Department Costs of School Programs	Limit of \$10,000.00		Fiscal Year 2019 and Subsequent Years
Old Home Day	Old Home Day Committee	Receipts Generated by Old Home Day Activities and Programs	Expenses of Old Home Day	Limit of \$5,000.00		Fiscal Year 2019 and Subsequent Years

Article 13 Passed By Show Of Hands  
 Unanimous Vote Declared By Moderator

**ARTICLE 14:** A motion was made and seconded to **RAISE and APPROPRIATE** the following sums for **Public Schools** for the 2018 fiscal year.

School Committee Stipend	\$ 4,564.00	
<b>Rowe School Budget</b>		
Rowe School K-6 Operating Budget	\$ <del>1,170,482.00</del>	1,161,424.00
Rowe School Secondary 7-12	\$ <del>485,884.00</del>	478,640.00
<b>TOTAL PUBLIC SCHOOLS FROM TAXATION</b>		<b>\$ <del>1,656,366.00</del>—1,644,628.00</b>

School Committee Member Ellen Miller noted that the changes made while reading Article 14 were due the numbers being voted at the Public Budget Hearing on April 7' 2017. Board of Selectmen Chair Marilyn Wilson stated that the Board of Selectmen had contacted Franklin County Tech School and Mohawk and had received different numbers.

Article 14 Passed by Show of Hands  
 Not Unanimous

**ARTICLE 15:** A motion was made and seconded to authorize the School Committee, pursuant to MGL Chapter 44, Section 53E½, to use a **revolving fund with a limit of \$10,000.00** for the 2018 fiscal year to accept fees for **School Programs** for the purpose of offsetting department costs, in which any remaining funds may be rolled over into a similar revolving fund for fiscal year 2019.

Article 15 Passed By Show Of Hands  
 Not Unanimous

**ARTICLE 16:** A motion was made and seconded to **RAISE and APPROPRIATE** the following sums for the **Rowe Town Library** for the 2018 fiscal year.

Library Salaries and Wages	\$ 39,055.00
Library Operations	\$ 29,535.00

TOTAL ROWE LIBRARY FROM TAXATION \$ 68,590.00

Article 16 Passed Unanimously By Show Of Hands

ARTICLE 17: A motion was made and seconded to RAISE and APPROPRIATE the following sums for the management and operation of Pelham Lake Park for the 2018 fiscal year.

Park Wages \$ 89,839.00  
Operation and Maintenance \$ 19,830.00

TOTAL PARK FROM TAXATION \$ 109,669.00

A motion was made to amend Article 17 to RAISE and APPROPRIATE the following sums for the management and operation of Pelham Lake Park for the 2018 fiscal year.

Park Wages \$ 89,839.00—74,174.00  
Operation and Maintenance \$ 19,830.00

TOTAL PARK FROM TAXATION \$ 109,669.00—94,004.00

Motion to amend Article 17 was Defeated by a Show of Hands, Not Unanimous

Article 17 Passed By Show Of Hands  
Not Unanimous

ARTICLE 18: A motion was made and seconded to RAISE and APPROPRIATE the following sums fiscal year 2018 for Culture and Recreation items, or take any action in relation thereto:

Gracy House Operations \$ 2,000.00  
Gracy House Materials \$ 500.00  
Beautification Committee \$ 00.00

TOTAL GRACY HOUSE and BEAUTIFICATION FROM TAXATION \$ 2,500.00

Article 18 Passed By Show Of Hands  
Not Unanimous

ARTICLE 19: A motion was made and seconded to RAISE and APPROPRIATE the following sums fiscal year 2018 for Old Home Day.

Old Home Day \$ 2,000.00  
Old Home Day Fireworks \$ 5,000.00

TOTAL OLD HOME DAY FROM TAXATION \$ 7,000.00

Article 19 Passed By Show Of Hands  
Not Unanimous

ARTICLE 20: A motion was made and seconded to authorize the Old Home Day Committee, pursuant to MGL Chapter 44, Section 53E½, to use a revolving fund with a limit of \$5,000.00 for the 2018 fiscal year to accept departmental receipts generated by Old Home Day activities and programs for the purpose of defraying expenses of Old Home Day, in which any remaining funds may be rolled over into a similar revolving fund for fiscal year 2019.

Article 20 Passed By Show Of Hands  
Not Unanimous

ARTICLE 22: A motion was made and seconded to APPROPRIATE from FREE CASH the sum of \$98,432.00 \$162,248.00 to be used to reduce the FY2018 Tax Rate.

Article 22 Passed By Show Of Hands  
Not Unanimous

**ARTICLE 23:** A motion was made and seconded to **APPROPRIATE** from the **Assessors Overlay Surplus Account** the sum of **\$13,997.00** reduce the FY2018 Tax Rate.

Article 23 Passed Unanimously by Show of Hands

**ARTICLE 24:** A motion was made and seconded to **APPROPRIATE from FREE CASH** the sum of **\$15,000.00** to be used to repair/replace the damaged windows at the Rowe Town Library.

Article 24 Passed Unanimously By Show Of Hands

**ARTICLE 25:** A motion was made and seconded to **APPROPRIATE from FREE CASH** the sum of **\$5,100.00** to be used to replace Park Headquarters siding.

Article 25 Passed Unanimously By Show Of Hands

**ARTICLE 26:** A motion was made and seconded to **APPROPRIATE from FREE CASH** the sum of **\$1,500.00** to be used to repair ramp for Compactor at the Transfer Station.

Article 26 Passed Unanimously By Show Of Hands

**ARTICLE 27:** A motion was made and seconded to **TRANSFER** from **FREE CASH** the sum of ~~**\$247,180.00**~~ **\$183,364.00**to the Stabilization Fund.

Article 27 Passed Unanimously By Show Of Hands

**ARTICLE 28:** A motion was made and seconded to **TRANSFER** from **PARK PLAYGROUND CONSTRUCTION ACCOUNT** the sum of **\$5,000.00** to be used for a new account, the Park Vehicle Repair Fund.

Article 28 Passed By Show Of Hands  
Not Unanimous

**ARTICLE 29:** A motion was made and seconded to **AUTHORIZE** the Board of Selectmen to apply for, accept and expend federal and state grants as may be available for the purposes of bridge repair and construction.

Article 29 Passed Unanimously By Show Of Hands

**ARTICLE 30:** A motion was made and seconded to **AUTHORIZE** the Board of Selectmen to apply for, accept and expend federal and state grants as may be available for the purposes constructing high speed internet.

Article 30 Passed Unanimously By Show Of Hands

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Strike the following language in Section I(B):

**ARTICLE 32:** A motion was made and seconded to acknowledge the following; “Be it known, that the Town of Rowe is a compassionate community whose residents respect the rights, dignity, and integrity of its citizens and visitors. As a welcoming community, we celebrate diversity, honor privacy and safety and affirm and promote equality for all. And furthermore, to instruct the Town Clerk to send a copy of this Declaration to our senators and Representatives in Congress and in the Massachusetts Legislature; the Governor of the Commonwealth; and to be posted at Town buildings and on the Town website.”

*Presented by Citizen Petition*

**Article 31 Passed By Show Of Hands  
Not Unanimous**

**ARTICLE 33:** To transact any other business that may lawfully come before the meeting.

Board of Selectmen Vice Chair Walter Quist thanked the Board of Selectmen, Department Heads and Residents for his time on the Board of Selectmen encouraging resident to volunteer in the community. Mr. Quist received a round of applause.

Mr. Leonard Laffond requested that the Flags presented to the school at the dedication be placed on the stage during Town Meetings.

The Moderator reminder voters of the Annual Town Election on Saturday May 13, 2017 from 8 a.m. – 3 p.m. at the Rowe Town Hall.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the Annual Town Meeting at 9:13 p.m. Unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted:

Jennifer A. Morse  
Rowe Town Clerk  
May 10, 2017

A true copy, Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Town Clerk